29:Dempsey M-5 (1940-1954) 1955
FJ23 Shilluk FJ23

Chapter XII

GOZINTAS AND ALL THAT

A visitor to Detwok, or indeed to any other mission station, taking an after-breakfast stroll round the place, would perhaps be momentarily mystified by a buzz which, as one approached nearer the source, would develop into a chant of youthful voices. Even though the listener knew nothing of the Shilluk tongue, the chant nevertheless would soon be recognized without much difficulty, for I suppose that about the same hour each morning the same chorus arises from millions of young voices all the world over. The language might differ from place to place, but the chorus is the same and the theme is the same: 'Two gozinta four twice, two gozinta six three times, two gozinta eight four times, etc., etc.' The Shilluk version is a little more elaborate than its English counterpart, for it may be translated thus: 'Four, its inside has two multiplied by two . . . ten with two to its head (i.e. twelve), its inside has two multiplied by six,' and—if one wished to proceed thus far—'one hundred with forty to its head, with four to its head, its inside has ten with two to its head multiplied by ten with two to its head.'

No matter how zealous a missionary may be to preach the Gospel, he realizes that evangelization must needs go hand in hand with secular education, and indeed in some cases—and this is particularly true of the Shilluk people—must *follow it*. For the adult Shilluk is so conservative in his habits and customs, is so imbued in the mythology of his tribe which claims its founder to be a demi-god and the spirit of divinity to be immanent in its kings, as to be almost wholly indifferent to the presence of the foreigner in his midst, and quite incurious as to the reason of his coming. Hence, the Catholic priest among the Shilluk, although by no means unmindful of the salvation of the adult pagan,